

the language pointed out in the Office Action, so the rejection for indefiniteness should be withdrawn.

Section 6 of the Office Action rejects claim 14 for anticipation by Lamb. Lamb's mold, however, has only one die that cooperates with one mold chamber in order to produce one concrete molding at a time. In contrast, the preferred embodiment of the mold disclosed in the present application has a plurality of dies (see, for example, the first sentence of the Detailed Description portion of the present application) in order to produce multiple moldings simultaneously. To accomplish this, even if there are variations in the amount of concrete in the mold chambers, each die is provided with its own means for moving a pressure-exerting plate that is forced into contact with the concrete.

Claim 14, which previously recited "at least one die," has now been amended to recite "a plurality of dies." The claim also recites that "each of said dies" includes a die shank, a pressure-exerting plate, and "means for receiving a pressure medium and for moving said pressure-exerting plate away from said load plate and forcing it downward into contact with concrete in a respective one of said mold chambers in response to said pressure medium...." Lamb's mold is quite different. For one thing, Lamb's mold does not have a plurality of mold chambers and a plurality of dies that are connected or fastened to a load plate. Nor does the Lamb reference suggest that each of a plurality of dies should have its own means for forcing the pressure-exerting plate of the die into contact with concrete in the mold chamber associated with the die. Rather, Lamb's mold has a single pressure means (reference character A in Figure 2 of the reference) which acts upon a single die 22.

Although Section 6 of the Office Action identifies the top part of Lamb's base 10 as corresponding to the "load plate" of claim 14, the top part of Lamb's base 10 is simply part of Lamb's housing and does not serve as a fastening plate for holding a plurality of individual dies.

Turning next to new independent claim 19, this claim recites a load plate, a pressure-exerting plate which is below the load plate, and "suspension means for movably suspending the pressure-exerting plate from the load plate." In contrast, Lamb's element 12 (and his element 28) are suspended from Lamb's piston P via die shank 22, which glides through an opening in the top part of Lamb's base 10. That is, Lamb's elements 12 and 28 are not suspended from the top part of Lamb's base 10 because they receive no support from the top part of base 10.

Claim 19 also recites a forcing means that includes "a pressure-medium chamber which receives a pressure medium and which comprises a flexible wall that is deformed by the pressure medium." In contrast, Lamb employs a double-acting piston in a cylinder. Nothing in Lamb would provide an incentive for an ordinarily skilled person to substitute a pressure-medium chamber with a flexible wall. If an ordinarily skilled person even considered replacing Lamb's piston with a flexible wall (and why would he think that such a modification would be desirable?), how would he then couple the flexible wall to Lamb's die shank 22 in an ordinarily skilled manner? Since Lamb uses his piston to move his die shank 22 upward in addition to downward, it seems likely that an ordinarily skilled person who considered such a modification (even if he thought about it in the first place, which seems unlikely) would quickly abandon the idea on the ground that it would be difficult to adequately couple Lamb's die shank 22 to the flexible wall.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that neither independent claim 14 nor independent claim 19 is anticipated by Lamb. Furthermore, for the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that neither claim is obvious in view of Lamb.

Section 8 of the Office Action rejects independent claim 14 for obviousness on the basis of Walchhuetter in view of Buhler et al (hereafter simply "Buhler"). However, Walchhuetter's element 5 is not a load plate that holds a plurality of dies in accordance with claim 14, each with its own "means ... for moving said pressure-exerting plate away from said load plate and forcing it downward into contact with concrete in a respective one of said mold chambers...."

The Buhler reference does not remedy this deficiency in the Walchhuetter reference. Furthermore, although the Office Action refers to Buhler's elements 162 and 163 (see Figure 3 of the reference) as a load plate, there is nothing to suggest fastening a plurality of dies to this alleged load plate, much less providing each of these dies with its own means for forcing a load plate into contact with concrete or other material that is to be molded.

New independent claim 19 recites a pressure-exerting plate and "suspension means for movably suspending the pressure-exerting means from the load plate." In contrast, Walchhuetter's element 5 does not support his element 6. Claim 19 also recites a forcing means which includes "a pressure-medium chamber which receives a pressure medium and which comprises a flexible wall that is deformed by the pressure medium." Neither Walchhuetter nor Buhler suggests this.

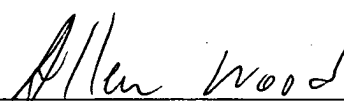
Since the remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, it is respectfully submitted that they are patentable along with their independent claims and need not be further discussed. In

addition, the claims directed to the non-elected species should be rejoined and allowed with claims 14 and 19.

It is noted that an Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending in the application are patentable over the cited prior art. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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